

Application No. 10/659,749
Response dated August 11, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A fine powder of metallic copper having a BET diameter of 3 μ m or less, particles of high sphericity and crystallites having a size of 0.1 to 10 μ m.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The fine powder of metallic copper according to Claim 1, wherein oxygen is contained at 0.3% by weight or less.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The fine powder of metallic copper according to Claim 1 which is to be used as a material for electroconductive pastes.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A process for producing the fine powder of metallic copper having a BET diameter of 3 μ m or less by blowing an ammonia-containing gas onto molten copper, wherein the molten copper is kept at 1120°C or higher, and wherein said ammonia-containing gas is blown at 0.015L/minute or more per unit area (cm²) of said molten copper.

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Claim 5 (original): The process according to Claim 4 for producing the fine powder of metallic copper, wherein said ammonia-containing gas is ammonia gas itself, or a mixture of ammonia gas and a non-oxidative or inert gas.

Claim 6 (canceled)